

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method for producing a cobalt-protein complex comprising:

the step a) of preparing a solution including Co^{2+} ions, a protein, and HEPES, and having a pH of not less than 8.0 and not more than 8.8; and

a step b) of adding an oxidizing agent to the solution and thereby making the protein contain particles composed of cobalt.

2-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the protein is apoferritin.

21. (Previously presented) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is H_2O_2 .

22. (Previously presented) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the step b) is performed at a temperature of 70°C or less.

23. (Previously presented) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the step b) is performed at a temperature of not less than 40°C and not more than 70°C .

24. (Previously presented) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 23, wherein the step b) is performed at a temperature of not less than 50°C and not more than 60°C.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The method for producing a cobalt-protein complex of claim 1, wherein the particles composed of cobalt includes CoO(OH).